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Oct 5, 1999

US-PAT-NO: 5963911

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TITLE: Resource allocation

DATE-ISSUED: October 5, 1999

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APPL-NO: 8/ 720199

DATE FILED: September 25, 1996

PARENT-CASE:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION This application is a continuation (under 35 USC .sctn.120/365) of copending PCT/GB95/00587 designating the U.S. and filed Mar. 17, 1995 as, in turn, a continuation-in-part (under 35 USC .sctn.120/365) of copending U.S. application Ser. No. 08/301,770 filed Sept. 7, 1994 now abandoned.

FOREIGN-APPL-PRIORITY-DATA:

COUNTRY	APPL-NO	APPL-DATE
EP	94302163	March 25, 1994
GB	9416596	August 17, 1994

INT-CL: [6] G06F 19/00

US-CL-ISSUED: 705/7; 705/8, 705/9, 364/468.05, 364/468.06, 364/468.07

US-CL-CURRENT: 705/7; 700/100, 700/101, 700/99, 705/8, 705/9

FIELD-OF-SEARCH: 705/7, 705/8, 705/9

REF-CITED:

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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	PAT-NO	ISSUE-DATE	PATENTEE-NAME	US-CL
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4852001</u>	July 1989	Tsushima	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>4866628</u>	September 1989	Natajaran	364/468
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5006983</u>	April 1991	Wayne	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5077661</u>	December 1991	Jain	364/402
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5111391</u>	May 1992	Fields	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5155679</u>	October 1992	Jain	364/402
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5216593</u>	June 1993	Dietrich	364/402
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5291394</u>	March 1994	Chapman	705/8
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5291397</u>	March 1994	Powell	364/402
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5295065</u>	March 1994	Chapman	364/401
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5392429</u>	February 1995	Agrawai	395/650
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5442730</u>	August 1995	Bigus	395/22
<input type="checkbox"/>	<u>5467268</u>	November 1995	Sisley	364/401

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Garwood, G.J. and Robinson, A.C., Work Management System, British Telecommunications Engineering, pp. 204-210, Oct. 1991.

ART-UNIT: 275

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ABSTRACT:

In order to optimize the utilization of resources (e.g., technicians) in performing a number of jobs, each job is assigned a cost time-dependent function and each resource is assessed for the time at which it will be available. For each combination of jobs with resources, an actual can be determined. The combination giving the lowest overall cost is then determined. Additional features are disclosed to ensure incompatible job/resource combinations are not allocated, and to reduce the complexity of the calculation by prioritizing the jobs and resources.

38 Claims, 19 Drawing figures